

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 21 - SB 84**

February 8, 2011

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to establish and implement the Office of Noncustodial Parent Advocacy pilot project in the juvenile courts in at least one county within each of the three grand divisions to assist unwed noncustodial parents in obtaining visitation rights with their children. Directs the AOC to promulgate rules to implement the office, including policies and procedures to provide assistance to unwed noncustodial parents; provide notice of the availability of the office; monitor parents who utilize the office; and provide recommendations for improving visitation rights of unwed noncustodial parents. Requires the AOC to report to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Children and Family Affairs Committee concerning the efficiency and effectiveness of the pilot project on or before February 15, 2012, and on or before February 15 of each successive year. The act takes effect upon becoming law with the pilot project in effect July 1, 2011, through July 1, 2013.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$400,000/FY11-12  
\$400,000/FY12-13**

**Increase Local Revenue – Not Significant  
Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant**

**Assumptions:**

- Implementation of the pilot program will require resources and personnel similar to a joint project currently administered by the AOC and the Department of Human Services. The current project, funded by a federal grant, demonstrates the impact of collections, enforcement actions, and adversarial proceedings of providing services to promote parental relationships, paternal participation, contact, and support to never-married parents in the child support system in both child support order establishment and enforcement cases in the 11<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> judicial districts. The grant was extended from a three-year project to four years for a project total of \$1,000,000.
- Similar resources and personnel will be needed to implement the proposed pilot project, resulting in an increase in state expenditures of \$400,000 each fiscal year (FY11-12 and FY12-13).
- The necessary expenditures will include a *pro se* facilitator in each of the three counties, a statewide coordinator for the project, and a contractor to evaluate the project.

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- The \$800,000 also includes funding for mediation costs, supervised visitation costs, form development, attorney fees, filing fees, and costs for providing *pro se* classes over the two-year period.
- Any costs for the AOC to develop rules and form petitions can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.
- Any increase to local court caseloads can be accommodated within existing resources without a significant impact to local revenue or expenditures.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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